

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A physiological tissue clipping apparatus comprising:
an clip capable of being arbitrarily opened/closed;
a tightening ring engagingly mounted on the clip, thereby closing the clip;
a link member capable of being inserted into the tightening ring and engaged with the clip;

an introducing tube capable of housing the clip and the tightening ring;
a manipulating member retractably routed into the introducing tube; and
engagement means provided at least one of the tightening ring and the introducing tube, the engagement means engaging the introducing tube with the tightening ring when the clip and tightening ring protrudes in front of the introducing tube, and disabling the tightening ring from being housed again in the introducing tube.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said engagement means is provided at said tightening ring.
3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said engagement means is provided at said introducing tube.
4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said engagement means is a protrusion that is protruded in a radial direction of the tightening ring when said tightening ring is protruded frontally of the introducing tube, and is engaged with said introducing tube.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said introducing tube comprises a member having flexibility capable of being introduced into a body cavity via a soft endoscope.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said manipulating member comprises a wire having flexibility capable of being introduced into a body cavity via a soft endoscope.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a clip cover for sealing the clip, the tightening ring, and the link member while said link member is further engaged with said clip and said tightening ring is engagingly mounted on said link member, said clip cover further enabling housing the tightening ring in the introducing tube.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said clip cover comprises a diameter reducing means for reducing said engagement means to a diameter capable of being housed in said introducing tube.

9. (Original) A physiological tissue clipping apparatus comprising:
a clip capable of being arbitrarily opened/closed;
a tightening ring engagingly mounted on the clip, thereby closing the clip;
a link member capable of being inserted into the tightening ring and engaged with the clip;
an introducing tube capable of mounting the clip and the tightening ring at a distal end thereof;
a manipulating member retractably routed into the introducing tube; and

a cover provided on the clip capable of entering an opened state required to ligate a physiological tissue from a closed state capable of being inserted into an endoscope.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover is retracted to a proximal end side, whereby said clip is released from the cover, and is established in an opened state.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover advances to its distal end side, and slips out of said clip, whereby said clip is released from the cover, and is established in an opened state.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover is broken, whereby said clip is released from the cover, and is established in an opened state.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover is opened, whereby said clip is released from the cover, and is established in an opened state.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover is dissolved, whereby said clip is released from the cover, and is established in an opened state.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said introducing tube comprises a member having flexibility capable of being introduced into a body cavity via a soft endoscope.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said manipulating member comprises a wire having flexibility capable of being introduced into a body cavity via a soft endoscope.

17. (Currently Amended) A physiological tissue clipping apparatus comprising a clip unit including:

- a clip capable of being arbitrarily opened/closed;
- a tightening ring engagingly mounted on the clip, thereby closing the clip, and;
- a link member capable of being inserted into the tightening ring and engaged with the clip, thereby transferring a force that retracts the clip into the tightening ring to the clip; and

a clip ~~operating~~ manipulation device which is a separate body from the clip unit including:

- a hook capable of being engaged with the link member of the clip unit and
- ~~an operating~~ a manipulating wire transferring the force that retracts the clip into the tightening ring to the hook,

wherein at least one of the link member and the hook is elastically deformable, the link member and the hook define an engagement structure wherein based on deformation and restoration of shape of one of the link member and the hook, the one of the link member and the hook is engaged with the other one of the link member and the hook and the clip unit is engaged with the clip ~~operating~~ manipulation device by the engagement structure.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said deformation means is provided at said hook.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said deformation means is provided at said link member.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said deformation means are provided at said link member and the hook.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an arm section having closing properties and a pinch section for pinching and fixing a proximal end part of said link member are provided at said hook.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an arm section having closing properties and a pinch section for pinching and fixing a distal end part of said hook are provided at said link member.

23. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an internal cavity whose distal end side is small in diameter is provided at said hook, and a proximal end part whose outer diameter can be expanded/reduced is provided at said link member so that said hook and the link member can be engagingly fixed to each other.

24. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an internal cavity whose tip end side is small in diameter is provided at said link member, and a tip end part whose outer diameter can be expanded/reduced is provided at said hook so that said hook and the link member can be engagingly fixed to each other.

25. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said deformation means is an elastic member.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, comprising a clip cover for sealing the clip, the tightening ring, and the link member while said link member is further engaged with said clip and said tightening ring is engagingly mounted on

said link member, said clip cover further enabling engagement between said link member and said hook.

27. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said link member is a resin-based elastic member, and the hook provided at said manipulating member distal end is a metallic non-elastic member.

28. (Previously Presented) A physiological tissue clipping apparatus comprising:

a clip capable of being arbitrarily opened/closed;

a tightening ring engagingly mounted on the clip, thereby closing the clip;

a link member engaged with the clip, thereby transferring a force that retracts the clip into the tightening ring to the clip; and

holding means for, stopping the clip from being further retracted into the tightening ring when the clip is opened to the maximum, thereby temporarily maintaining the opened state,

wherein the holding means has a holding force that permits release of the clip from the opened state when the clip is pulled, after the opened state is maintained, with a force greater than the force used to retract the clip until the clip is opened to the maximum.

29. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said holding means is provided at said clip.

30. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said holding means is provided at said tightening ring.

31. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said holding means is provided at said link member.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said clip comprises arms and said holding means is a stepped section that is provided at each of the arms of said clip, for engaging said arms ~~and is engaged~~ to each other.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said clip comprises arms and said holding means is a stepped section that is provided at each of the arms of said clip, for engaging said arms ~~and is engaged~~ with said tightening ring.

34-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Withdrawn) An endoscope treatment device comprising:
an introducing tube having flexibility capable of being introduced into a soft endoscope;

a manipulating member having flexibility, the manipulating member being retractably inserted into the introducing tube; and

positioning means having flexibility, the positioning means being provided on the manipulating member, thereby causing said manipulating member to be positioned at the axial center of said introducing tube.

42. (Withdrawn) An endoscope treatment device comprising:
an introducing tube having flexibility capable of being introduced into a soft endoscope;

a manipulating member having flexibility, the manipulating member being retractably inserted into the introducing tube; and

a plurality of positioning means provided on said manipulating member, thereby causing said manipulating member to be positioned at the axial center of said introducing tube.

43. (Withdrawn) A physiological tissue clipping apparatus comprising:
an introducing tube having flexibility capable of being introduced into a soft endoscope;

a manipulating member having flexibility, the manipulating member being retractably inserted into the introducing tube; and

positioning means having flexibility, the positioning means being provided on the manipulating member, thereby causing said manipulating member to be positioned at the axial center of said introducing tube.

44. (Withdrawn) A physiological tissue clipping apparatus comprising:
an introducing tube having flexibility capable of being introduced into a soft endoscope;

a manipulating member having flexibility, the manipulating member being retractably inserted into the introducing tube; and

a plurality of positioning means provided on said manipulating member, thereby causing said manipulating member to be positioned at the axial center of said introducing tube.

45. (Withdrawn) An endoscope treatment device comprising:

- an introducing tube;
- a manipulating member retractably inserted into the introducing tube;
- a manipulating section main body mounted on said introducing tube;
- a slider mounted on said manipulating member, the slider being manipulated to advance/retract the manipulating member relevant to said introducing tube;
- an inclined face section having two inclined faces with their different angles provided at least in one of said manipulating section main body and said slider; and
- an engagement section provided in at least one of said manipulating section main body and said slider, and moving said slider, thereby ensure engagement with said inclined face section.

46. (Withdrawn) An auxiliary case comprising:

- a clip capable of being arbitrary opened/closed;
- a tightening ring engagingly mounted on the clip, thereby closing the clip;
- a link member capable of being inserted into the tightening ring, and engaged with said clip; and
- fixing means for, while said link member is engaged with said clip, and said tightening ring is engagingly mounted on said link member, sealing these clip, tightening ring, and link member and fixing an introducing tube of a clip manipulating device at a position capable of housing these clip, tightening ring, and link member.

47. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said fixing means is an arm capable of being elastically opened.

48. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said fixing means is a protrusion capable of being elastically opened.

49. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said fixing means is an arm with protrusion capable of being elastically opened.

50. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said fixing means is a soft resin ring.

51. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein at least a part of said auxiliary case comprises a transparent or semitransparent material.

52. (Withdrawn) An auxiliary case comprising:
a clip capable of being arbitrary opened/closed;
a tightening ring engagingly mounted on the clip, thereby closing the clip;
a link member capable of being inserted into the tightening ring, and engaged with said clip; and
an inclined face section for, while said link member is engaged with said clip, and said tightening ring is engagingly mounted on said link member, sealing these clip, tightening ring, and said link member, and establishing said clip and the engaging means provided on said tightening ring at a closed state capable of being housed in an introducing tube of a clip manipulating device.

53. (Withdrawn) A physiological tissue clipping method comprising:
mounting a clip unit housed in a clip case on a clip manipulating device;

routing the clip manipulating device into a soft endoscope, thereby guiding the clip unit into a target site of a physiological tissue; and

manipulating the clip manipulating unit, thereby clipping the clip unit at the physiological tissue.

54. (Withdrawn) A physiological clipping method comprising:

connecting a clip unit housed in a clip case with a clip manipulating device, and manipulating the clip manipulating device, thereby mounting the clip unit on the clip manipulating device;

routing the clip manipulating device into a soft endoscope, thereby guiding the clip unit into a target site of a physiological tissue; and

manipulating the clip manipulating unit, thereby clipping the clip unit at the physiological tissue.

55. (Withdrawn) A clip unit mounting method comprising:

connecting a clip manipulating member to a clip unit housed in a clip case; and mounting the clip unit housed in the clip case on a clip manipulating device.

56. (Withdrawn) A clip unit mounting method comprising:

connecting a clip unit housed in a clip case with a sheath of a clip manipulating device having a clip manipulating member retractably inserted thereinto;

advancing the clip manipulating member, thereby linking the clip unit with the clip manipulating member in the clip case;

retracting the clip manipulating member, thereby guiding the clip unit housed
in the clip case to the inside of the sheath; and
mounting the guided clip unit thereon.